

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed is a new and improved check valve for use in applications such as spray drying, for example. The check valve assembly includes a valve member or piston mounted for movement within an axial bore defined within the valve body. The piston controls the flow of fluid through the valve body and opens by moving in an upstream direction opposite the direction of fluid flow so as to minimize the pressure drop across the valve assembly.

Figure 2A